

CLUB
WHISKY
31.00 PER DOZEN.
H. PRICE & CO.,
12, Queen's Road Central.

Hongkong Daily Press.

ESTABLISHED 1857.

GRAND PRIX PARIS 1900
The Highest Possible Award.
JOSEPH
GILLOTT'S
PENS.
Of Highest Quality, and having
Greatest Durability, no there-
fore CHEAPEST.
The Only Award Chicago, 1893
[a232]

No. 14,659 號九十五陸千四萬一第 日七十月五年十三緒光 HONGKONG, SATURDAY, APRIL 1ST, 1905. 六拜禮 號一月四年五零百九千一英港香 PRICE, \$3 PER MONTH.

A CHOICE AFTER-DINNER WINE
WATSON'S
D. PORT
VERY FINE OLD VINTAGE.

A. S. WATSON & CO.
LIMITED.

ALEXANDRA BUILDINGS.

[a1865]

CUTLER, PALMER

& CO.'S

PRICE \$10 5 PER DOZEN

NET

"SPECIAL BLEND" WHISKY
Blend
Selected
Distillations of the
Finest Scotch Whiskies

Apply to

SIEMSEN & CO., Hongkong. [a265]

THE WINE GROWERS'
SUPPLY CO.



Direct Importers of Wine, Beer and Spirits
from well-known Growers, Brewers and
Distillers. Price List on application.
[a44] Nos. 22 & 24, Bank Buildings, Queen's Rd.
GREEN ISLAND CEMENT COMPANY

PORTLAND CEMENT.

\$4.50 per Cask 375 lbs. net ex Factory.

\$2.70 per bag 250 lbs. net ex Factory.

SHEWAN, TOMES & CO.,

General Managers.

Hongkong, 1st March, 1905. [a2866]

NOTICE.

THE TERMINUS STORES.

GENERAL STOREKEEPERS, COMPRADORS,
COMMISSION AGENTS.

MOST respectfully beg to inform the
Public that they have opened a Store
in this Colony at Nos. 60 and 61, ELGIN
ROAD, KOWLOON, under the Style of the
Terminus Stores and are prepared to accept all
kinds of orders, which will be attended to and
executed in the shortest time, and earnestly hope
to be favoured with the kind Patronage of the
Public.
Hongkong, 9th March, 1905. [a2660]

"BOA VISTA"

(HOTEL-SANITARIUM OF SOUTH
CHINA)

MACAO

HAS been reopened under European
management and most strict supervision.
All comforts of a home.
A most pleasant retreat for those desirous of
a few days rest and quiet.

Comfortable accommodation for travellers
paying a visit to the historical and picturesque
colony of Macao.

Macao is 40 miles south-west of Hongkong, 2
One steamer (s.s. Heungshan), daily to and
from Hongkong, and two steamers to and from
Canton, give easy communication with
these centres.

Cable Address—"BOA VISTA."

For Terms, apply to

[a2411] THE MANAGER.

MACAO

AND

CANTON
HOTELS.

A LITTLE CHANGE.

THE Round Trip from HONGKONG
to MACAO, thence to CANTON and back to
Hongkong, will be found interesting and
enjoyable

WM. FARMER,

Proprietor. [a5]

CUTLER, PALMER & CO.

WINE & SPIRIT MERCHANTS,

OF

LONDON, INDIA, CHINA, JAPAN AND AUSTRALIA.

	Per Case.
BRANDY	\$22.50
"	20.00
"	16.75
WHISKY, PALL MALL	20.00
" JOHN WALKER	12.50
" O. P. & CO.'S SPECIAL BLEND	10.50
PORT WINE, INVALIDS	20.00
" DOURO	13.75
SHERRY, AMOROSO	20.00
" LA TORRE	16.00
BENEDICTINE, D.O.M.	40.50

THE ABOVE EXCLUSIVELY SHIPPED TO

SIEMSEN & CO.

HONGKONG AGENTS. [a34]

THE
LAHMEYER ELECTRICAL CO., LD.

LONDON

ELECTRIZITAETS ACTIEN GESELLSCHAFT FORM.

W. LAHMEYER & CO., FRANKFURT A/M.

FOR ESTIMATES OF ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS OF ANY DESCRIPTION

Apply to—

SIEMSEN & CO., SOLE AGENTS FOR CHINA. [a34]

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AND PRINTING

UNDERTAKEN.



GOOD WORK,

PROMPT

RETURN

UP-TO-DATE DARK ROOM

FITTED WITH ELECTRIC LIGHT AND FAN

AT THE DISPOSAL OF AMATEURS

LONG HING & CO.,

PHOTO GOODS STORE,

17A, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL.

(Same Premises as Messrs. Ah Chee). [a39]

Hongkong, 15th August, 1904.

ALARMING INCREASE
IN BALDNESS!!!

and all other derangements of the Hair, such as Scurf, Dandruff, Scanty Partings, Falling Hair,
Premature Grayness, &c., &c.

A REMEDY OFFERED.

which possesses all the elements that go to produce a good head of hair. Its powerful, stimu-
lating properties go straight to the hair roots—giving them a life and vig or they never knew
before. And life and vigour to the roots mean more hair, stronger hair, better hair. It will
assuredly do all this for YOU, as it has done for thousands of others.

WILSON'S HAIR WASH.

THE GREAT HAIR PRODUCER AND RESTORER.

The Finest Dressing. Specially Prepared and Delicately Perfumed.

A Luxury and a Necessity to every Modern Toilet.

WATKINS LIMITED,

CHEMISTS AND DRUGGISTS,

AND

AERATED WATER MANUFACTURERS,

(Crown Brand.)

APOTHECARIES HALL, HONGKONG. [a38]

CALDBECK MACGREGOR & CO.



Telephone No 75.

WINE AND SPIRITS
MERCHANTS.

15, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL.

Hongkong, 1st April, 1905. [a37]

KOWLOON HOTEL.

KOWLOON.

DELIGHTFUL SITUATION. UNEXCELLED RESORT FOR TRAVELLERS
AND RESIDENTS.
BILLIARDS AND BOWLING. LAWN AND GARDENS.
JAS. W. OSBORNE, PROPRIETOR AND MANAGER. 626

W. BREWER & CO.

23 and 25, QUEEN'S ROAD.

NEW VIEW BOOK OF HONGKONG—24 VIEWS ... \$1.00
THE PRODIGAL SON, by HALL ... \$1.75
CAINE ... 24.00
The Gains of the East, by Savage Landor; ... 4.70
A Secret Agent in Port Arthur ... 1.50
Scott's Stamp Catalogue 1905 ... 1.25
Now Map of Kwang-Tung Province ... 1.25
A Dip—of the "Three-Japanese War
with Maps and Illustrations; Parts
1 to 20 at ... 0.00 each
Confessions of a Young Man, by Geo.
Moore ... 1.75
Man's Place in the Universe, by Wallace ... 3.50
Three Dukes ... 1.75
Appl's of Eden, by Thurston ... 1.75
Great Pictures in Private Galleries; Part 9, ...
Port Arthur, Three Months with the
Besiegers, by Villiers ... 6.50

NEW STOCK.
EXTRA STRONG BOND 9999 NOTE PAPER.
OLD COLONY LINEN BANK NOTE PAPER
AND ENVELOPES TO MATCH.
OLD COLONY LINEN NOTE PAPER AND
ENVELOPES, DUCHESSE SIZE,
WHITE AND BLUE.
GENTLEMEN'S BOOTS AND SHOES, BLACK OR
BROWN, BEST ENGLISH MAKE.
NEW WINDSOR FOUNTAIN AND
STYLOGRAPHIC PENS.
THE BEST EGYPTIAN CIGARETTES:
SULTAN'S \$2.00; PASHA'S \$2.50 PER 100.
CONSTANT FRESH SUPPLY. [a35]

PEERLESS SCOTS WHISKIES

HAIG & HAIG, LD., DISTILLERS SINCE 1679.

3 Star, SPECIAL—The finest of all "Fog" WHISKIES at ... \$18.0
5 Star, LIQUEUR—Especially selected, best in the World for Club or Private use at ... \$22.0
Stop drinking rank, Smoky Stuff, because "it comes through the SODA."
Try HAIG & HAIG'S WHISKIES: pure, mellow, matured, non-smoky, delicate flavor
Once tried, preferred to all others. Sole Agents for Hongkong:

F. BLACKHEAD & Co.

2755

LANE, CRAWFORD & CO.

PIANO DEPARTMENT.

L. C. & CO. SOLE AGENTS IN HONGKONG FOR:—

BRINSMEAD, STEINWAY, BROADWOOD, COLLARD &
COLLARD, CHALLEN, DORNER, & Co.

All Instruments imported by us are SPECIALLY SELECTED and made for this climate
—the CASES are constructed of SOLID SEASONED wood, and the internal mechanism is
made from the best materials only.

We have the longest experience in the Piano Trade of any dealers in the East, and are
satisfied that Pianos made at home are infinitely superior to any constructed by makers in the East.
TUNING and REPAIRING attended to by experienced European Assistants.

LARGE STOCKS OF MUSIC AND MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS.

LANE, CRAWFORD & CO.

Hongkong, 22nd March, 1905. [a36]

JOHN ROBERTS & COMPANY, LTD.

BILLIARD TABLE MAKERS.

BOMBAY.

Undertake to Supply a First-class full sized Billiard Table, design No. 1, to following Specifica-
tion, viz: on Eight Massive turned Legs, raised panels to Knees, Carved Brackets, Screwed
Mouldings, double bolted, best Welsh Slate Bed, extra heavy solid cushion rails fitted with our
new low set Express Cushions, patent invisible Pocket Plates, best Whipcord Pockets, Six Chalk
Cups, Superfine West of England Cloth, and patent adjusting toes with lever for levelling
complete with the following accessories:—

- | | |
|---|---|
| 12 Selected Ash Cues | 1 Wall Cue Rack |
| 1 Butt Rest with Patent Brass Head. | 1 Wall Butt Rack |
| 1 Billiard Rest with Patent Brass Head. | 1 Set Billiard Rules, Framed. |
| 1 Long Butt. | 1 Best Billiard Brush. |
| 1 Mid Butt. | 1 Set "Crystalline" or "Benzoline" Bill. Balls. |
| 1 Billiard Marking Board. | 1 Box Best Cue Tips, Assorted. |
| 1 Dust Cover for Table. | 1 Cue Tip Fastener with File. |
| 1 Straightedge and 1 Circle. | 1 Bottle-Cue Cement. |
| 1 Best Spirit Level. | 1 Box Silk Spots. |
| 1 Smoothing Iron with Shoe. | 2 Dozen Best White Chalk. |

Packed and delivered free on Board Hongkong or Shanghai Harbour for the sum of Rs. 1,400
net.

Illustrated price lists giving prices and particulars of everything pertaining to billiards can
be had on application from the Offices of this paper.

Hongkong, 1st April, 1904 [a37-1]

A. TACK & CO.

26, DES VŒUX ROAD CENTRAL, HONGKONG.

FURNITURE, SUNDRIES & PHOTOGRAPHIC GOODS

OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.

EASIMAN'S KODAKS & FILMS.

"PRIMUS" CAMERAS & ACCESSORIES.

ILFORD PLATES & PAPERS.

"PRIMUS" DEVELOPERS & CHEMICALS. [a46]

PRINTING & DEVELOPING UNDERTAKEN.

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(MITSUI & CO.)

HEAD OFFICE:—1, SURUGA-CHO, TOKYO.

LONDON BRANCH:—34, LIME STREET, E.C.

HONGKONG BRANCH:—PRINCE'S BUILDINGS, ICE HOUSE STREET.

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Canton, Peking, Hankow, Port Arthur, Seoul, Chemulpo, Yokohama, Yokosuka,
Nagoya, Osaka, Kobe, Kure, Shimoda, Moji, Wakamatsu, Kanagawa, Nagasaki,
Kuchino, Sasebo, Maizuru, Miike, Hakodate, Taipeh, &c.

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CONTRACTORS OF COAL to the Imperial Japanese Navy and Armaments and the State
Railways; Principal Railway Companies and Industrial Works; Home and Foreign Mail
and Freight Steamers.

SOLE PROPRIETORS of the Famous Miike, Tagawa, Yamato and Ido Coal Mines; and
SOLE AGENTS for Hokkaido, Honshu, Kanagawa, Fukuoka, Yamaguchi, Munakata, Onoda, Otsu,
Sagami, Tsukuba, Yokohama, Yashio, Yonokuni, and other Coals.

[a37]

BLACK

BERRY

BRANDY

Per Bottle ... \$2.50

" 1 ... 1.60

H. PRICE & CO.,

12, Queen's Road.

INSURANCE

THE STANDARD LIFE OFFICE.

(ESTABLISHED 1825.)

THE Accumulated Funds of the Company

are nearly

\$11,000,000,

and the annual revenue is at the rate of

\$3800

PER DAY.

DODWELL & CO., LD.,

Agents. [a1812-3]

HOTELS.

HONGKONG HOTEL

FIRST-CLASS AND UP-TO-DATE.

Lining accommodation for 300 persons.

131 Bedrooms.

Elegantly Furnished Reception Rooms.

Private Bar and Billiard Rooms for Hotel
residents.

Hydraulic Lifts to each Floor.

Electric Lighting and Fans.

Every Comfort.

Ladies' Afternoon Tea Rooms.

Ladies' Cloak Rooms.

Matrons in attendance.

CHARGES MODERATE, AND NO EXTRAS.

A. F. DAVIES,

Acting Manager.

THE
PEAK HOTEL.

Admirably Situated. Sheltered from the
North-East Monsoon and Open to the South-
West Monsoon.

A COVERED GANGWAY LEADS
FROM THE TRAMWAY TERMINUS
INTO THE HOTEL.

Telephone No. 29.

Town Office: 7, DUNDRELL STREET. [a386]

KING EDWARD HOTEL.

A HIGH CLASS PRIVATE HOTEL.

Ladies' Afternoon Tea-Rooms.

Private Bar and Billiard-Rooms

Hot and Cold Water throughout.

Electrically Lighted. Electric Fans (if

required).

Electric Passenger Elevator to each floor.

Table D'Hôte at separate tables.

For Terms, &c., apply to the—

MANAGER.

Hongkong, 10th June 1903. [a1802]

CONNAUGHT HOTEL.

A FIRST CLASS HOTEL Situated near

the Banks and Principal Offices.

Excellent Cuisine and Wines.

Large and lofty Rooms, Elegantly Furnished

Hydraulic Elevator, hot and cold water

throughout.

Special Rates for Tourists.

Launch Services for Guests.

For Terms, apply to the

MANAGER.

Hongkong, 31st October, 1902. [a48]

CARLTON HOUSE

HOTELS,

No. 8 & 10, ICE HOUSE ROAD.

THESE premises, formerly known as the
Club Entrance and the Waverley Hotel,
have been thoroughly renovated and furnished
in excellent style as Private Family Hotels.

Cool Rooms, Comfort of Residents, and the
Cuisine a specialty.

Apply to—

THE MANAGER.

Hongkong, 7th October, 1904.

DAVID CORSAH & SON'S

MERCHANT NAVY

NAVY BUILD-
LONG FLAX

RELIANCE CROWN

TABPAULING

ARNHOLD, KARBURG & CO.

Sole Agents. [a38]

INTIMATION

A. S. WATSON & CO.,
LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.

WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANTS.

ALEXANDRA BUILDINGS.

CLARETS

OF THE FINEST QUALITY.

SPECIALLY SELECTED & IMPORTED

DIRECT FROM THE MOST CELEBRATED

CHATEAUX.

	1 doz. Qts.	2 doz. Pks.
ST. ESTEPHE, (Red Capsule)	\$8.00	\$9.00
ST. JULIEN, (Red Capsule)	10.00	11.00
LA ROSE, (Red Capsule)	13.50	14.50
CHATEAU HAUT BRION LARIVET ...	20.00	22.00
CHATEAU MOUTON D'ARMAILHAC ...	24.00	26.00
CHATEAU PONTET CANET	28.00	—
CHATEAU LA TOUR CARNET	33.00	—
CHATEAU RAUZEN ...	48.00	—
CHATEAU LAPITE ...	54.00	—

A. S. WATSON & CO.
LIMITED.

ALEXANDRA BUILDINGS.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS

Only communications relating to the news column should be addressed to this Editor.
Correspondents must forward their names and addresses with communications addressed to the Editor, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith.
All letters for publication should be written on one side of the paper only.
No anonymously signed communications that have already appeared in other papers will be inserted.
Orders for extra copies of DAILY PRESS should be sent before 11 a.m. on day of publication. After that hour the supply is limited. Only supplied for Cash.
Telegraphic Address: PRESS, CODES A.B.O. 5th Ed.
Lieber's
P.O. Box 38, Telephone No. 19

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 14, DE WATSON STREET, CL.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

HONGKONG, APRIL 1st, 1905.

It is reported that the Chinese Minister in Tokyo has been pressing his Government at Peking to take steps to reduce the steadily increasing number of Chinese who are taking out naturalisation papers in Japan. He has been bold enough to inform Peking that if it were not for the dread of official "squeezes," and of being robbed of the fruits of their industry in a manner affording no redress, many Chinese merchants abroad would be glad to return to their native land, where the spending of their acquired competences would naturally benefit their own people. The Minister thinks a good effect would be made by the publication in Japan and other Chinese frequented places of a proclamation promising that their rights and property will be held sacred if they return; and pointing out on the other hand the disadvantages entailed by staying away. For instance, a Chinaman naturalised as a Japanese is entitled to no benefit or assistance from Chinese Ministers or Consuls; he is liable to be called on to fight for the country of his adoption; and besides, he falls under the shame and stigma of being unpatriotic. We are told that the Chinese Board of Commerce has acted upon these suggestions, and sent intimations that are to be circulated amongst all Chinese living abroad, notifying them that if they return to China, special passes will be given to them so that their wealth will be "duly protected." Never did spider sing a more sweetly sounding invitation to the fly. Set to the tune of "Home, sweet home," this ditty may touch the hearts of numerous Chinese abroad, but we see small probability of touching their heads, which are quite

business-like enough to tell them any acceptance of the kind invitation would involve the touching of their pockets. No doubt they all still share the Chinese desire to lay their bones in Chinese soil; but for that there is plenty of time. To such Chinese as are in a position to remember the conditions existing in their native country, the notification will be waste paper; for they must know how little weight even an Imperial Edict carries in, say, Canton. In some place removed from immediate Imperial observation, where a greedy Mandarin covets the cash of Mr. Li from Japan, what protection is a special pass? The usual charge is trumped up, the "squeeze" extorted, and the Mandarin forwards his own version of the incident to headquarters should any enquiry be made. On the other hand, whether they be naturalised as British or Japanese subjects, they never suffer conscription. In Japan the Chinaman can live cheaper and earn bigger interest on his money, and he knows that every dollar of it is safe from either unfair taxation or official extortion. Many foreigners are beginning to find this out, and there are some with moderate capital who permanently reside there for similar reasons to those that used to cause English families in reduced circumstances to reside on the Continent. High taxation, and the low value of money may yet do for England what official corruption has done for China, exiling its citizens who have made moderate competences. As for the "benefit or assistance" of his country's Representative, the foreigner in Japan, Chinese or other, rarely needs it. Except in certain business transactions, the Japanese courts are as safe a refuge for the foreigner as for the native; and in the few wrong trade decisions, the Minister or Consul can or does do nothing to put things right. With regard to China's present uneasiness about this exile of capital, it can never be allayed until there are domestic changes of a bigness and importance at present scarcely realized. Those who are, by this proclamation, put in the mind once more to set foot on their native heath will continue to do as numerous others in like circumstances have been doing; that is, to select Hongkong or Shanghai as the place in which to spend the incomes derived by their industry and thrift. Even such inducements as high official appointments fail to tempt them to do otherwise, for they well know on how precarious a tenure the favour of Peking is enjoyed, under a system which encourages tale-bearing, as often false as true. Thus they flock to Hongkong and Shanghai, in great numbers, those places doing for the East what London does for Europe, sheltering the oppressed, and offering asylum to those who have reason to fear oppression. Unfortunately, all these alien refugees are not in the happy position of those whom Peking is now trying to entice. As to the patriotism of the Chinese who become naturalised subjects in other lands, it ill becomes the official class of China to throw the first stone at them. The patriotism of the class which has made China such a "distressful country as never yet was seen" will not bear too close an examination.

The German Mail of the 1st March was delivered in London on the 30th ult.

The time-table of the *Hongshan*, running between Hongkong and Macao has been changed for the summer season.

It was Punch who reported of a certain Royal baby that the moment he heard he was heir to the Russian throne he cried.

"Who is the policeman," asked a Colombo defendant, with a contemptuous gesture, "who would not give false evidence for 50 cts.?"

The auction of Japanese Curios advertised to take place to-day (Saturday) by Mr. Geo. P. Lamont is postponed to Thursday next, the 6th inst. at 2.30 p.m.

"Intercepted letters" were not written by Mr. Donald after all, it appears; and our Sherlock Holmes Reviewer is seeking his friend Dr. Watson for a big pill to cure his punctured pride. Mr. Donald softens the blow by admitting the plausibility of the Reviewer's deductions; but assures us they were quite wrong. The letters were in a lady's caligraphy; and Mr. Donald had no more to do with them than as editor receiving them for publication.

"It is often said that the pursuit of knowledge has a nobility of its own. But what knowledge? You may find out what all the numerals in Bradshaw add up to; or who was Napoleon's great-aunt; or what Mary Shelley ate; or who really wrote the tale of 'God Save the King'; or the Letters of Junius; or who really started the kinetic theory of gases. In each case you will say: 'What is the use of such knowledge?' Your question at once commands the answer, 'No knowledge is worth obtaining for its own or any other sake unless it is, or will probably be, useful to man.'"

Who says Punch hath lost his savour? Here is one of his recent trifles—General Stoessel has given an indignant denial to *The Times* allegations against himself as to Port Arthur. If there was a large amount of ammunition left at the time of the surrender, then it was not his fault but the fault of those officers whose duty it was to throw it into the sea. And this: The latest official returns show that Raviarism is spreading even to Trade, and Mr. Chamberlain is reported to be seriously alarmed.

By kind permission of Colonel W. G. B. Western C. B. and officers, the band of the second Battalion "The Queen's Own" (Royal West Kent Regiment) will play the following "Programme of Music" during dinner at the Hongkong Hotel this (Saturday) evening:—
March ... "Hoch Hababurg" ... Kml.
Overture to ... "Mirella" ... Gounod
Selection from "The Country Girl" ... Monckton
Yalio ... "Amorette Tante" ... Monckton
Romance ... "Simple Aveu" ... Monckton
Fantasia ... "Plantation Songs" ... Chabon
Cake Walk "At a Georgia Camp Meeting" Mills
Menu—Hors D'Oeuvres—Anchovy Canapes.
Soup—Potage a la Windsor. Fish—Baked Fish
a la Normande. Entrees—Chicken en Compote.
Brained Leg of Mutton a la Bretonne, Macaroni au Gratin. Curry—Burmah. Joint, &c.—Roast Sirloin of Beef, Roast Phœnix, Boiled Corned Ox Tongue and Carrots, Cold Lotter Mayonnaise and Plain Salad. Sweets—Bread and Butter Pudding, Chocolate Ice Cream and Sand Cake, Apple Tart, Tipy Cake, Dessert—Coffee, Fruits.

CAMPBELL, MOORE & CO., LD.

ANNUAL MEETING.
The nineteenth ordinary annual meeting of shareholders in Campbell, Moore and Company, Limited, was held at the Company's office, No. 29, Queen's Road Central, at noon yesterday. Mr. J. W. Osborne (Chairman) presided, and there were also present Mr. M. A. A. Souza (Secretary), Messrs. A. O'D. Gourdin, Dangchee, V. P. Masse Peralta and Captain Clarke.
The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen—The report and accounts have been in your hands for several days. With your permission we shall follow the usual course and take them as read. Nothing can be stated that would give shareholders more information than that contained in the accounts. The business here and at the branch establishment is prosperous, and I look forward to a successful year and hope that next year we shall give as good a return as we do now, or better. Before proposing the adoption of the report and accounts any questions shareholders like to ask I shall be pleased to answer.

There were no questions. The adoption of the report and accounts was proposed by the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. A. O'D. GOURDIN, and carried.
Captain CLARKE proposed the re-election of Mr. A. O'D. GOURDIN as Auditor. Mr. DANGCHEE seconded, and it was carried.

GEO. FENWICK AND CO., LD.

EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING.
A second extraordinary general meeting of this Company was held at the Hongkong Hotel yesterday at noon, for the purpose of confirming as a special resolution, the resolution passed at an extraordinary general meeting of the Company held on the 11th March last, and previously published in these columns. There were present:—Mr. A. Rodger (Chairman of Directors), Mr. W. Purland (Director), Mr. W. G. Winterburn (General Manager and Secretary) and Messrs. G. de Champeaux, T. Arnold, J. I. Andrew, W. H. Purcell and J. K. McCordale.

The Secretary having read the notice convening the meeting and the resolution passed at last extraordinary general meeting, the CHAIRMAN said:—Gentlemen—This meeting has been called to confirm the special resolution just read to you, and passed on the 11th of this month at a special extraordinary general meeting. With your permission I beg to propose that the resolution be now confirmed.

Mr. DE CHAMPEAUX seconded the proposition, which was carried unanimously.
The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, that is all the business. Thanks for your attendance.

THE GOVERNOR'S VOLUNTEER SHIELD.

The annual musketry competition for the challenge shield (Hongkong Volunteer Corps) presented by His Excellency the Governor will be held on Saturday the 29th April, commencing at 1.30 p.m. Teams of eight will be drawn from the Engineer Company and from each half Artillery Company. Men not efficient will not be allowed to compete. The ranges will be 200, 500 and 600 yards. Competitors will use the weapons as issued from the armory of the H.K.V.C., but private slings will be allowed. Seven shots to be fired by each competitor at each range, and one sighting shot. One blow off to be allowed at the 200 yards range only. The order of firing by Units to be settled by lot on a day previous to the competition. Each competition to be carried out all on one day, to be appointed by the Commandant. All Competitors to be in uniform. The competition to be carried out as far as possible under Bisley rules, but without prejudice to any of the above mentioned conditions. Two reserves to be required with each team. No orthotics, varnishes or paint will be allowed, but plain glasses will be permitted in case of defective eyesight.

TELEGRAMS.

["DAILY PRESS" SERVICE.]

MOROCCO.

LONDON, 31st March.

The German policy in Morocco (supporting the Sultan) is causing a good deal of irritation in France.

[REUTER'S SERVICE.]

FRANCE AND GERMANY.

LONDON, 29th March.

The French semi-official press effects unconcern at the Kaiser's visit to Tangier; but the tone of the newspapers of both countries generally shows the significance attached thereto.

THE WAR.

["DAILY PRESS" SERVICE.]

ROOSEVELT THE PEACE-MAKER.

SUSPENSION OF HOSTILITIES EXPECTED.

LONDON, 31st March.

Japan is reported to be willing to listen to proper proposals for peace.

The *Times* goes so far as to say that on the initiative of Japan, both Russia and Japan have agreed to accept the offices of President Roosevelt as mediator. An immediate suspension of hostilities is expected in consequence.

VLADIVOSTOCK ISOLATED.

LONDON, 31st March.

The newspapers are repeating the statement that the railway connection between Harbin and Vladivostock has been successfully cut by the Japanese.

[REUTER'S SERVICE.]

THE DOOMED ARMADA.

LONDON, 29th March.

Reuter's correspondent at Durban wires that the *Dart* from Rangoon sighted thirty warships with fifteen colliers on the 19th inst. steaming eastward, 250 miles north-east of Madagascar.

CORRESPONDENCE.

KOWLOON WANTS A CLUB.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
Hongkong, March 31, 1905.
Sir:—In view of the increasing popularity of Kowloon for European residence, I am at a loss to understand why there has not yet been a club established therein for social and other purposes among the numerous Kowloonites. I hope some of your readers on the peninsula will take the matter up, and call for a meeting to give the subject a formal discussion.
I am, yours &c.

A WOULD-BE KOWLOONITE.

"INTERCEPTED LETTERS"

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
Hongkong, 31st March.
Sir:—With reference to the statement in your review of "Intercepted Letters" we beg to say that you are mistaken in attributing the authorship to Mr. W. H. Donald. This gentleman had nothing to do with the letters; they were in fact written by a lady, who wishes to keep her identity concealed.—Yours faithfully,
KELLY & WALSH LD.

RUSSIAN DISSENSIONS.

According to despatches from Mukden the conduct of General Gripenberg in leaving for Russia at a moment's notice, without even going through the formality of bidding good-bye to General Kuropatkin, has made a most unpleasant impression on the army.
Messages from Chifu return to the charge against General Stoessel. General Smirnov is credited with saying that the ex-Commandant was perpetually quarrelling with General Kuropatkin. He sought every occasion of asserting his authority, and devoted far more time and energy to worrying non-combatants than he did to the military operations. He was continually deriding their timidity, and actually forced them to leave their sheltered positions.
None of the engineers, it is asserted, were equal to their duties, except the late General Ruzhievsky. General Stoessel himself is alleged to have remarked that the Japanese shells pierced the Russian works as if they were clay.
Many of the people in Port Arthur are ready to swear that ammunition was deliberately thrown away after the capitulation. The soldiers were allowed to go back in rags, although there was plenty of clothing in the storehouses, until the supply officers either threw it into the sea or scattered it about the hills.
Accounts received in Odessa from the front are dependent over the dissensions among the Commanders and the demoralisation of the troops, which are growing with the prolonged inactivity.—*Standard*.

LOCAL SPORT.

YACHTING.

Cruiser Race round Island.—The following are the arrangements for the re-sailed race to be held on Sunday April 9th (weather being favourable) in connection with the R.H.K.Y.C. Yachts to anchor in Junk Bay, in small bay on east side of Bokoinkok on Saturday (8th) evening (if possible).
Start by crossing line to be arranged on spot.
First boat starts 8 a.m.
Finishing line. Flagstaff on Taikeo Sugar Refinery Wharf and flagstaff on Refinery.
Race to be declared off if not finished by 7 p.m.
Course round Island, Cape D'Agulhar first Handicap as before.
Times of guns:—Alexandra, 7.55 a.m. and 8 a.m.
Jona and Dorothy, 8h. 12m. 30sec. and 8h. 17m. 30sec.
Snipe, Tazzy, Thistle and Brynhilde, 8h. 41m. 40sec. and 8h. 45m. 40sec.
Australian and Beta, 9m. 5sec. and 9m. 10sec.
La Cigale and Haidée, 9m. 40sec. and 9m. 45sec.
No Chinese allowed to steer.
Diplomas need not be taken.
Conditions and rules (with above alterations) of former race to apply.
The Corinthian Yacht Club are re-sailing their fifth club race to-morrow, over course No. 3.

CRICKET.

H.K.C.C. "A" v. Craigengower. This League match will take place at 2.15 p.m. on the latter Club's ground to-day. The following is the Craigengower team:—L. F. Lamont, (Capt.), M. E. Asger, L. A. Rose, R. Bassa, J. D. Kinnaird, R. Peaton, E. S. Ford, J. Craik, J. P. Jordan, J. L. Stuart and I. D'Almada e Castro. The H.K.C.C. "A" will be represented by the following:—A. Mackenzie, C. H. Fallon, C. H. Mackay, F. J. Gibson, F. C. Butcher, N. H. Rutherford, J. Hooper, R. A. R. Wells, A. Oliver, P. R. Wolf and Another.
The League Table remains unchanged as the matches fixed for last week were abandoned on account of the wet weather.
In the league match, Kowloon C.C. v. Police C.C. at Happy Valley at 2 p.m. to-day, the Kowloon team will be:—L. W. F. Lamson (Capt.), Lt. F. C. Bard, Lt. G. H. Dobbyn, Lt. W. B. Duncan, Dr. J. H. Swan, Dr. H. E. Blaney, Dr. C. Fox, Walker Dixon, J. Robinson, E. R. Horton and S. Lightfoot.
The match between the Hongkong C.C. and a League fifteen, which was to have been played to-day, has been abandoned owing to the soft nature of the ground which has, shortly, to be used for tennis.
Some of the teams in the Cricket League have two more matches to play, some three. Owing to the recent rains it is hardly likely that the series will be finished before the 22nd instant.

FOOTBALL.

A meeting of the Committee of the Hongkong Football Shield competition was held last evening when it was decided to play the final competition, H.M.S. *Glory* v. West Kents, this afternoon, on the Club ground commencing at 4.15. Mr. J. W. C. Bonnar is to be referee, and Messrs. Mann and Russ, Linemen. If conclusive the shield and medals will be presented after the match.

The final in the Soldiers' Club Football Cup, Royal Engineers and the West Kents, will be played on the Club ground next Saturday, the 8th instant, commencing at 4.15 p.m.
The Secretary of H.M.S. *Glory* Football Club has suggested that this team should play the Royal Engineers in a friendly, for he thinks that the R.E. men should have put up a better fight in the semi-final for the Hongkong Shield.

SAGHALIEN.

The *Singapore Free Press* says:—One item in the future peace settlement between the victorious Japan and defeated Russia will be a change in the ownership of the island of Saghalien, that long island off the mouth of the Amur river, which has forty years past been used by Russia as a penal settlement. Up to 1857 Japan owned the southern half of the island and once owned the whole of it. But Russia in 1875 compelled Japan to give up the portion she still held, granting to Japan certain of the Kurile Islands as a quid pro quo. But Japan has not forgotten the coercion applied to her then, and it is reasonable to assume that Saghalien will revert to its original owner, as one of the results of the present war. This island, about 670 miles long and from 20 to 150 miles wide, is densely timbered and highly mineralised. But one point, in regard to the natural resources of Saghalien, gives that island a high economic value in these days of liquid fuel. An engineer who has visited the oil-bearing lands and deposits of petroleum in Texas and in Pennsylvania and was subsequently employed in the exploration of similar deposits in Saghalien, has declared that what he had seen in the United States was nothing in comparison with what exists in the great island of the Amoor Gulf. Again, a report of the Consular Agent of the United States at Vladivostok states that the petroliferous springs in the district of the river Nootova, one of the chief rivers of the island, surpass in importance those of Baku. There are in that district seven subterranean lakes of naphtha, one of which has an area of about 60,000 square metres. It is no matter for wonder if Japan bears all this in mind in arranging for the future of Saghalien. Even although Japan herself produces a good deal of oil, she has had to import more than fifteen million of yen worth in 1901. The naphtha and oil of Saghalien, exploited by Japanese companies, would naturally be exported to Japan as a most convenient market. The Russians, on their side, would feel the loss of the control of that supply of all which has a high value for its use in the river navigation of the Amoor and for its general use in Siberian trade.

WATKINS, LIMITED.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of this Company was held at noon yesterday. Mr. G. A. Watkins presided and there were also present Messrs. Chan A. Pook (Secretary), Chow Han Wah, Wang Loung Him and Tsang Yut Kai.
The CHAIRMAN in proposing the adoption of the annual report said:—Gentlemen,—With your permission I propose to take the General Managers' report for last year as read, and proceed at once to make the few remarks I have in my mind. From the statements now before you, you will see that substantial amounts have been written off the two assets 'Aerated Water Plant' and 'Shop Fittings and Furniture' and trust that these appropriations meet with your concurrence.
The next item amongst the assets calling for notice is the building, which appears as only \$15,040 against last year's figure of \$22,720. The difference is accounted for by the reduction of the monthly instalments paid off during the year under review. The instalments, I may add, were treated as rent and debited to the Working account of 1904 out of the profits of the year. One more item, and we will finish with this side of the account, and that is the balance of \$2,000 (which has since been paid in full)—due from Messrs. J. C. Logan & Co. for the purchase of our launch, which was sold to them last December. Now for the liabilities:—The bills, loans and accounts payable all show a decrease as compared with last year, amounting together to over \$15,000. But, unfortunately, the bank overdraft amounted to nearly \$10,000 more. And it is due entirely to this fact that your General Managers find themselves compelled to carry forward all last year's profits, \$12,604.82, instead of paying the usual 10 per cent. dividend. Profit and loss account exhibits a credit balance of \$12,604.82 against \$11,042.22 of the previous year, an increase of \$1,562.60, a result which the General Managers trust the shareholders think satisfactory. I don't think there is anything else in the accounts calling for any special attention, but I shall be pleased to give any further information which any of you gentlemen here may wish to ask. The receipts, or sales, during last year show an increase, and this year, so far, may be considered as satisfactory.

Mr. CHOW HAN WAH second the proposition, which was carried.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business gentlemen, thank you for your attendance to-day. I hope that next time I shall have the pleasure of declaring a more substantial dividend, and be able to tell you that dividend warrants will be ready the following day.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

After providing for all bad and doubtful debts, and including the \$1,042.22 carried forward from last year, the balance of credit of this account amounts to ... \$12,604.82

From which has to be deducted the following sums written off as depreciation, viz:—

From plant and machines ... \$2,000.00
From furniture and fixtures ... 2,000.00

Leaving, available, the sum of ... \$12,604.82 which sum the General Managers propose to carry forward to the current year's account.

EQUALIZATION OF DIVIDEND FUND.

The amount at credit of this fund remains as before, \$4,802.57.

AUDITOR.

The accounts have been audited by Mr. A. O'D. GOURDIN.

Accounts are as follows:—
BALANCE SHEET.
31st December, 1904.

Capital 10,000 shares at \$10 fully paid up ... 100,000.00
Equalization of dividend fund ... 4,802.57
Unclaimed dividends ... 605.60
Stated Chinese Bank ... 21,283.43
Bills payable ... 2,618.92
Loans payable ... 5,750.00
Accounts payable:—Trade Bills, \$4,882.20
Sundry creditors 4,251.50

Building mortgage loan ... 15,040.00
Profit and loss account ... 12,604.82

\$188,738.31

ASSETS.
Aerated water plant, as per last report ... \$7,000.00
Less written off ... 2,000.00

Shop fittings and furniture &c., as per last statement ... \$15,377.18
Stated added ... 2,317.74

Less written off ... 2,000.00

Building ... 15,040.00
Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation ... 470.82
Cash ... 811.62
Loans attaching to 1905 ... 936.07
Stock, &c., with branches ... 14,776.22
Stock on hand ... 90,444.11
J. C. Logan & Co.—balance due for purchase of steam launch ... 2,000.00

Accounts receivable ... \$41,725.03
Sundry debtors ... 2,481.66

\$188,738.31

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

To loss on sale of steam launch ... \$ c.
To amount written off for depreciation:—
From aerated water plant ... \$ 2,000.00
From shop fittings and furniture ... 2,000.00

To balance ... 4,000.00

\$10,004.82

By balance forward from last year \$11,042.22
Less 10 per cent. dividend ... 1,000.00

By net profits made in the year 1904, less bad and doubtful debts written off ... 15,862.60

\$17,904.82

On Thursday night a collision occurred in the harbour between the launch *Zee Zing* and a passenger junk with 32 people on board. The junk was injured so badly that she almost immediately became water-logged. The launch stopped and rescued all but three of the passengers, who are supposed to have been drowned. An inquiry will be held.

SUPREME COURT.

Friday, 31st March.

IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR H. S. BAKER (CHIEF JUSTICE)
AND MR. T. SERCOMBE SMITH
(PUNISH JUDGE).TANG TSE U. V. THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.
Judgment was given in this case. At the hearing, Messrs. M. W. Shaw and H. G. Calhoun, instructed by Mr. John Harston (of Messrs. Ewens and Harston) appeared for the appellant; and the Attorney General (Hon. Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C.) and Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by the Crown Solicitor (Mr. F. B. L. Bowley) for the respondent.

The Chief Justice said it was an appeal from a decision of the Land Court disallowing the claim of the appellant, one of several rival claimants, to the absolute ownership of a portion of the foreshore at Cheung Shu Wan, formerly within the territories of the Emperor of China, but since the date of the Kowloon Extension Agreement, part of the Colony of Hongkong, and officially known as "The New Territories." The foreshore claimed extended for a length of about two miles along what is now part of the northern shore of Hongkong Harbour, and comprised an area of about 150 acres. This foreshore, of little or no value before the Kowloon Extension Agreement, had since its inclusion in Hongkong Harbour become of very high value. In the claim presented to the Land Court in 1901 the value was placed at \$50,000; but it was stated at the Bar in the course of argument on appeal that the value now exceeded \$2,000,000. In the course of his long written judgment, His Lordship decided that the appellant's case had failed entirely, and that the appellant who formerly held a certain area of the foreshore in Cheung-shu-wan Bay under licences from the Chinese authorities, which required him to reclaim the foreshore, was obliged by the law of China to reclaim such foreshore within the prescribed period of six years from the date of the licence, and having failed so to do, lost by lapse of time all right to the foreshore on the 26th August 1896. Consequently the appellant had at the time of the decision of the Land Court (on the 1st July 1898) no right of any kind in respect of the lands which he claimed, and could not therefore require the Hongkong Government either to grant him any right to the land, or to award any compensation in respect thereof.

Mr. Justice Smith first set out the Convention of the 9th June 1898 between the Emperor of China and Queen Victoria, which ceded to Britain the New Territories. He referred to the provision of the Convention against the expropriation of inhabitants in the New Territories, and set out the Order in Council dated the 26th October 1898 declaring that the New Territories were part and parcel of the Colony of Hongkong. This required that measures should be taken to reconcile the dominion of the Crown with rights of ownership. To effect that object Ordinances 4 of 1900 was enacted on the 23rd July, 1900—the Land Court Ordinance.

The constitution of the Land Court under that ordinance and the powers of that court were then dealt with.

The learned judge next referred to the application for leave to appeal; and to the notice of motion on behalf of the plaintiff to adduce further evidence, which was refused. He also gave a summary of the judgment of the president of the Land Court. Before proceeding to examine the merits of the claim he dealt with certain preliminary points. He held that the nature of the proceeding was in effect an action to establish title and that the burden of proof lay on the appellant. He minutely dealt with the question of the proof, admissibility and effect of the documents adduced as evidence, such as the official despatches or letters between Chinese departments, petitions of Chinese, general and local statutes of the Chinese Empire, regulations of the boards and records of the courts of China. He held that official despatches and petitions were not admissible as evidence, that the general and local statutes were admissible as part of the evidence of the experts who produced them, and that where the evidence of the witnesses was conflicting the Court might examine and construe for itself the passages quoted. The regulations of the boards were held to be admissible as public documents.

As regards the awards and judgments of the courts of China the question arose whether they were judgments in rem or judgments in personam. In quoting Story and Smith's leading cases, the Puisse Judge adopted Story's wider language in preference to the narrower language in Smith's leading cases, so as not to deprive the plaintiff of what in deciding a nice point of law would have been evidence for him. He adopted the view that most of those judgments were judgments in rem and therefore conclusive against the world.

His Honour also dealt in detail with the admissibility in evidence of the forty odd documents which constituted the exhibit BNI and having dealt with this point proceeded to examine the terms "reclaim," "reclamation," "assessed to land tax," "entered on the tax register," "cancelled" and "exercise the right of ownership," which were translations of the various Chinese terms about which there was a difference of opinion.

The next point dealt with was the procedure on appeals from decisions of the Land Court which was to follow as nearly as might be the procedure in case of appeal against the decision of the Puisse Judge. He pointed out that this was an appeal on questions of fact and questions of law, and that so far as the question of law was concerned, as required by Section 35 of Ordinance 4 of 1873.

Having dealt with these preliminary matters

He explained the origin and axis of the four documents of claim relied upon by the appellant and known as AO and AS, and AP and AT. He selected AT as a test document. The appellant's case rested on this document. It read as follows:—

"Foreshore sealed receipt for landholder.—The Provincial Treasurer of Kwong Tung in the matter of issuing a sealed receipt. I, the Treasurer, have received, in reply to my despatch, a minute from their Excellencies the Viceroy and Governor approving that landholders should voluntarily report their families, fields, banks, make payment, apply for acquisition be granted in the first instance a sealed receipt to hold as proof, be permitted to cultivate as usual, use labour to reclaim, and that they should come again in each separate case to exchange the sealed receipt for a Treasurer's certificate under which to exercise ownership and pay tax according to class. New Landholder . . . of . . . District, being of the household . . . of the . . . borough, the . . . parish and the . . . township, member of family . . . district, at the place named . . . of sand water white banks in all four keng and has paid in all as the regulation fee Taels 80 and as compensation for loss on exchange Taels 64, which sum, having been received and weighed by a deputy of the Branch Office, it is proper, as a first step, to issue a sealed receipt in respect of the foreshore thus voluntarily reported permitting the applicant to cultivate as usual, use labour to reclaim according to the four boundaries and dimensions, and to wait until an accurate survey has been made, when he should take with him this sealed receipt and exchange it for a Treasurer's certificate. A necessary sealed receipt. Boundaries as under:—East, Sham Shui Po; West, Lai Chi Kok Custom House; South, the sea; North, salt fields the taxed property of the same family. Issued on the 12th day of the 7th moon of the 16th year of Kwong Sui (26th August 1896)."

The Puisse Judge examined this document minutely. Attention was drawn to the phrases in it "in the first instance," "come again to exchange it for a Treasurer's certificate," "hold as proof," "permitted" and "applied for acquisition." The document *prima facie* did not confer ownership. It was clear that the holder of the document was to take active steps to exchange it for a Treasurer's certificate. But before the exchange could take place there was to be an official survey. The appellant argued that as this official survey had not been made he could not carry out his part by exchanging his sealed receipt for a Treasurer's certificate. To this it was replied that before the survey could be made the appellant's duty was to report that the land was fit to be surveyed. This he had not done and His Honour held that this report by the holder of the document was a necessary preliminary to the official survey for the purposes of placing the land on the tax register.

The learned judge then proceeded to enquire whether there was any limit of time within which such report had to be made, and stated that the answer to this question depended on the answer to another question "was there a limit of time within which the land permitted to be reclaimed was bound to be reclaimed and entered on the tax register?" After examining the evidence of the skilled witnesses on both sides, the evidence of the appellant in the court below and the law of China bearing on the point, he held it proved that the land covered by the appellant's documents of claim was required by the law of China to be reclaimed or cultivated and entered on the tax register within six years of the date of issue of these documents, namely by the 26th August 1896.

After explaining the *Chik Lo* tax he went into two arguments advanced by the appellant's counsel (1) that unreclaimed land rightly paid taxes at *Chik Lo* rate and (2) that Treasurer's certificates were legally issued in respect of unreclaimed land. Both the arguments were rejected as unsound.After this digression he turned again to examine the documents of claim, stating that *prima facie* they did not confer ownership which accrued only upon the receipt of a Treasurer's certificate accompanied by payment of taxes. He then dealt with the evidence on the question of how ownership was acquired, and after examining the expert evidence, the appellant's evidence and the law of China on the subject came to the conclusion that the holder of sealed receipts such as the appellant's documents of claim in this case did not acquire absolute ownership of the land permitted by such sealed receipt to be reclaimed. After making a few more remarks upon the tenor of these documents he wound up on this point thus:—

"As I think it would be rash to apply to the document AT any term bearing a definite legal meaning in English law, I must express myself in the following periphrasis concerning it. It is a preliminary document permitting reclamation of certain landbank, and in course of time is to be exchanged for a further and final document called a Treasurer's certificate. After six years from the issue of AT, the landbank must be reclaimed, entered on the land tax register and pay tax. If the reclamation is accomplished within the allotted time, the holder of AT must report that fact, whereupon the officials will have the landbank surveyed. Ownership is not immediately acquired by the holder of AT, but is conferred when, after reclamation and entry on the tax register, the Treasurer's certificate is obtained in exchange."

Before proceeding to notice in detail other arguments put forward by the appellant the learned judge established the proposition that only reclaimed land could go on to the tax

It was asserted for the appellant that the judgments of a foreign court were the best proof of the law of that foreign country. By English law, however, foreign law must be proved as a fact by skilled witnesses, so the judgments contained in BNI were not admissible as proof of the law of China. He showed that the Chinese magistrates could not have called sealed receipts, which are the appellant's documents of claim, titled deeds, or *Kai* as the Chinese character is. He also showed that the word "certificate" as used by magistrates in respect of the same sealed receipts was a misnomer and that the Treasury receipts mentioned in Rule 11 of the Sha Tin Kuk Rules were not the same as sealed receipts or as Treasurer's certificates. He next dealt with the argument that the Chinese magistrates had recognized that the appellant was the owner of the land, which he was permitted under his documents of claim to reclaim. He showed that the same phrase "exercise the right of ownership" was used in respect of Chinese title deeds and breaming licences and sealed receipts, and that the phrase was one of varying import, the exact meaning of which must be arrived at by the examination of the document in which it occurred, or to which it related, so that the phrase "to exercise the right of ownership according to the certificate" did not mean more than to exercise such rights as the certificate or sealed receipt conferred. Another argument of the appellant was that he had, with the sanction of a Chinese magistrate, granted a perpetual lease of the land he now claimed to a Chinese company for building purposes, and that the recognition of this lease by a Chinese magistrate proved that he had such an estate in the land which he was permitted to reclaim as to enable him to carve out of that estate a lease. The Court pointed out that though the magistrate might have recognized the existence and registration of this lease it did not follow that the appellant had a legal right to make such a lease. The right to make such a lease was never investigated in the Chinese courts and therefore the magistrates were never called upon to decide whether or not the appellant had an estate out of which this lease could be granted. The mere fact of registration proved no more than that the lease was duly registered. It did not prove that the appellant had any right as against the Chinese Government to make such a lease. It was also pointed out that the Chinese word for lease was used to describe such various documents as "breaming licences," "sealed receipts" and "leases" proper. The term, therefore, seemed to be one of varying import depending upon the document to which it was applied. Because it was applied to the appellant's documents of claim it could not be said that these documents of claim were leases, and that therefore the appellant as Crown lessee had power to sublet. The three main arguments of the appellant hitherto noticed were:—(1) That his documents of claim conferred absolute ownership (2) that they conferred an estate out of which a perpetual lease could be given (3) that a Treasurer's certificate was issued and taxes at *Chik Lo* rates were paid, in respect of unreclaimed land. As regards the subsidiary arguments of the plaintiff, the court held it was not proved that the Chinese land register conferred title; that the Crown was not now stopped by reason of its argument in the court below from arguing that the appellant was not owner of the land; that the time limit of thirty years from the date of application to reclaim was not fixed by rule No. 9 of the Sha Tin Kuk Rules; and that the six years' limit prescribed for the reclamation of sand banks was not abolished with regard to the Sun On District.

Having dealt with these subsidiary arguments the court proceeded to enquire what was the result of the appellant not having fulfilled the conditions under which he was permitted to reclaim. The appellant's argument on this point was that the Chinese government had no right to re-enter on the lands comprised in his documents of claim, that such a right of re-entry was not expressed on the face of these documents, and was too severe a measure to be employed in law, for the law leaned against forfeiture. On the other hand the respondent argued that the appellant's documents of claim were on the face of them mere permits, that they were issued upon conditions which attached to them by the law of China that such conditions not having been fulfilled the rights conferred by the permits had elapsed. The oral, affidavit and statutory evidence on this point having been examined minutely by the learned judge, he came to the conclusion that the law of China as propounded by the Crown's skilled witnesses was more consistent with both the conditions annexed by that law to the general tenor of the appellant's documents of claim, than was the law of China as propounded by the appellant's skilled witnesses. The judgment ended as follows:—On the evidence I hold that AS and AT were voidable by the Chinese Government on the 26th August 1896. But though that Government did not exercise its power of avoidance the right to avoid passed to the British Government and can be exercised at any moment. In my opinion that right of avoidance has not yet been exercised. The reason for this is that until it had been held that such a right of avoidance existed, the Crown was not in a position to exercise its right. It may now rescind AS and AT, the right to rescind not having been abandoned by the Chinese Government. One of the skilled witnesses for the respondent declares that under the circumstances existing in this case the land reverts to Government. The Chinese Government it is clear was never divested of its ownership of the soil. It permitted the appellant to enter on the soil for the purpose of reclaiming it within a prescribed time. That time expired and the conditions of occupation remained unfulfilled.

The permission to occupy came to an end therefore when the allotted term had passed and the conditions imposed by the permission were unperformed. In such a case I can see that there was any necessity for any active steps on the part of the Chinese government to cancel or avoid the documents of permission. It seems to me that the rights conferred by these documents having elapsed by effluxion of time, the documents themselves became mere waste paper having no value. If the documents of claim AS and AT are only voidable, I am of opinion that the judgment appealed from must be upheld. If they are of no more effect than expired permits, the appellant equally fails, for his documents ceased on the 26th August 1896 to confer on him any right even of entry and conditional occupation. The appeal should be dismissed with costs.

REVIEWS.

My Chinese Note Book, by Lady SUSAN TOWNLEY. London: Methuen & Co. 36, Essex St., W.C.

Sixteen capital pictures, two good maps, some useful tables, and one or two chatty chapters towards the end of it, describing the Empress Dowager and her court, make Lady Townley's book a welcome addition to the great number of travel books with which we have been lately startled. To have written the major part of this book the lady has admittedly had to read a great deal, and to have read all she has with sufficient care to summarize as she has done, stamps her intelligence as of the right order to make what little original contribution there is of a sort worth reading. The style is feminine, with a plethora of exclamation marks; and the writer who has had sufficient individual taste for choice of words, such as a preference for "identical" where the adverbial term "at" seemed out of place, has yet not disdained to repeat the objectionable use of "pretty" in phrases like "pretty certain." There is here and there a disconcerting tone in speaking of Chinese faiths, only to be expected from one who no doubt clings to her own with all reverence; and sometimes it is the case that in condensing all there is to say a wrong impression is risked, as when on page 66 she attributes the Shanghai riots of 1890 to "desecration of a Chinese cemetery by Frenchmen," which was hardly the way to express it. It is to be hoped readers will not accept the chapter headed "Taoism" as the last word on that subject; and Buddhists will certainly regret the chapter devoted to their cult. The rest of the book, not yet particularly, is frankly travel gossip written for friends at home, and has a little more than average interest, for Lady Townley was an indefatigable sightseer, and took evident pains to miss nothing worth describing. The exhaustive index at the end gives it the outward seeming of a work of reference to which character we fear it is not fully entitled. The publishers, as usual, have done their part nobly.

The Descent of Russia, by Hugo GEM. London: Hodder and Stoughton, 27, Paternoster Row, 6s.

A timely book, of unique interest; and, if we accept its assurances of being unbiased, and written from "behind the scenes," a book of unusual value, for it upsets several popular notions of the government of the Tsar. It is just to add that some of its predictions have been startlingly fulfilled. The author is the "well known correspondent of Vienna," who visited Russia on a tour of enquiry just before war broke out, and was still there when that happened. In the light of subsequent happenings, the two chapters on Warsaw are almost inspired. The description of St. Petersburg is of vivid interest, and reads quite truthfully. Of the Priest it is written:—

"He is especially accredited with a decided predilection for various distilled liquors that at times exert a doubtful influence on a man's behavior. . . for spiritual garments the gutter is even less a place of legitimate rest, and, at any rate, it is difficult to acknowledge as the appointed interpreter of God's will a man whose most avowed of an entirely different spirit from the 'spirits sanctus.'"

In the churches he noticed "a huge general hypnosis." It has to be admitted that there is some bias apparent in this book, and at times the "revelations" are so surprising as to cast doubt on the genuineness of the interviews. Here is a scrap of the conversation with a "bank director." "Please tell me whether, in your opinion, there is a hidden deficit in the Russian budget or not."

"I say that as long as there are people who are willing to lend to us, we shall pay the interest. Were our budget a real one, we should not need to contract new debts in order to pay the interest on the old ones."

"That is what I wanted to know. And do you consider Russia a really insolvent country, that cannot really pay its debts and cannot bear the burdens of modern national life?"

"On the contrary, Russia is a land intrinsically so rich in untold treasures that it only needs another and a just regime for it to pay its debts and assume still further burdens."

"And this other regime?"

The banker pointed to the East. "Our future is being decided there. If it goes hard with us there, it may become better here more quickly than is expected."

In another interview, one said that, failing more foreign loans, there was another way of getting money. "When the landowner sells his crops, and is thinking of investing his proceeds, the banker will say to him, 'How about a little of the Russian securities?'"

The banker then said, "That's only a Jewish trick, on account of Kishineff." And the good fellow will hand over his shekels, for he won't let himself be fooled about Kishineff."

Views of Canton, Hongkong: Kelly & Walsh. A capital collection of real photographs, mounted in an album of grey cartridge paper, suitable for sending by post. The view of the interior of the fire-dragon pagoda is interesting as showing up the detestable vandalism of some foreign Yahoos who have scratched their ignominious names or initials on the walls beside the altar. A Chinaman who did that in one of the cathedrals!

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Hongkong, 27th December, 1904.

CAMP CONDITIONS IN MANCHURIA.

There have been allusions in certain telegrams from the seat of war to some unexpected and inexplicable symptoms of ill-health, especially amongst the Russian troops. A few remarks from one who is very well acquainted with the climatic conditions in Manchuria and who has had considerable experience in famine relief work amongst people living in underground dwellings may be of interest.

In the first place, all who are acquainted with proper sanitary conditions, trenches and earthworks, especially those under fire, are difficult to keep clean. Now, in Manchuria several hundred thousands of men have been crowded into "dug-outs" or in trenches, without, as regards the vast majority of each army, changing their positions for over four months. The continuous and severe frosts have caused everything, nothing has evaporated, and the hard-frozen ground has made the "earth to earth" treatment difficult. The Japanese, who are naturally of cleanly habits, and have a practical elementary knowledge of simple sanitary methods, will be better off. The more solid materials will doubtless have been cremated in the same way as the natives use argal fuel. The Russians have not, as a rule, especially amongst the rank and file, the same innate ideas of cleanly habits, and, further, they are in a low-lying region, whereas the Japanese are on limestone hills, or on soil largely composed of sand and decomposed quartz or limestones. A vast amount of mud must have saturated the surface of the frozen ground, and now that the sun is rapidly regaining its power, the surface of the soil around the camps will become thawed. The weather has not been unusually severe, and this means that as the spring breaks the fierce sirocco-like winds from the south-west will scarcely blow at all, and these winds, though laden with dust and unpleasant as the March east winds in England, are drastic in their treatment of microbes, and disease germs. Without these winds, March is a most unhealthy month in the cities of Southern Manchuria; the air is laden with poison, and even the natives suffer much from sickness. In Mongolia the Mongol hordes to strike his gort or *khukha* and encamp away from the winter site. Cholera, dysentery, and other summer sicknesses are not usual, but, of late years especially, a germ which it is said resembles that of the Asiatic plague attacks the throat and lungs of adults, and is worse than diphtheria. The rate of deaths from this disease is not high, but it frequently takes an epidemic and contagious form, and the patient is long in recovering. The mind is terribly depressed and the body weak. Scarlet fever, measles in several forms, and smallpox often run riot at this season, and especially the Russians, should suffer. Last year they were on the move, and in the mountains, at this season.

Underground dwellings are generally fairly healthy from November 1 until the Chinese kite-flying season, which commences in the north early in February. When, as the natives affirm, "it chills," or "earth air" rises—that is to say, when the atmosphere is warmer than the ground. Those in the underground dwellings, despite the system of heating, which consumes much of the carbonic acid gas, become unwell, and suffer from headaches, lassitude, and lack of energy, followed later by sickness and disease. In the native underground vegetable pits plants maintain their greenness and freshness until February, and then, unless much care is taken, become rapidly mouldy, rot, and die. The walls of the "dug-outs" exude unspeakably musty smells, whilst the roofs drip with moisture. Much may be done by opening the roofs, and letting in quantities of fresh air; but the sooner the dwellers vacate their present abodes and remove from their winter quarters altogether the better, or they will find a worse enemy than bullet, shell, or bayonet.—Times.

BODY OF PAUL JONES
DISCOVERED.

A Manila paper announces that the discussion of decades is at an end. The body of John Paul Jones, the gallant officer of the United States navy who died here on July 18th, 1892. It was found in Paris, and exhumed. It will be delivered to the Government of the United States and its permanent examination and handling over will be a ceremonial affair. The discovery was mainly accidental, though for years there has been a diligent search for the remains. The funeral of John Paul Jones was under the auspices of the French National Assembly, but the records of that occasional government have been partly lost and no hint of where the corpse of America's great hero lay had been found until to-day.

LATEST STEAMER MOVEMENTS.

The P.M. str. *Siberia*, with mails, &c., left Kobe for this port via Nagasaki and Manila on Friday, the 31st March at 2 a.m., and is due here on the 7th April.The N.G.L. str. *Capri* left Singapore for this port this morning, and may be expected here on the 6th April.The Ben Line str. *Denialder*, from Antwerp and London, left Singapore on the 24th March for this port.The I.G.M. str. *Prinz Eitel Friedrich*, which left here on the 28th March, arrived at Shanghai yesterday at 6 a.m.

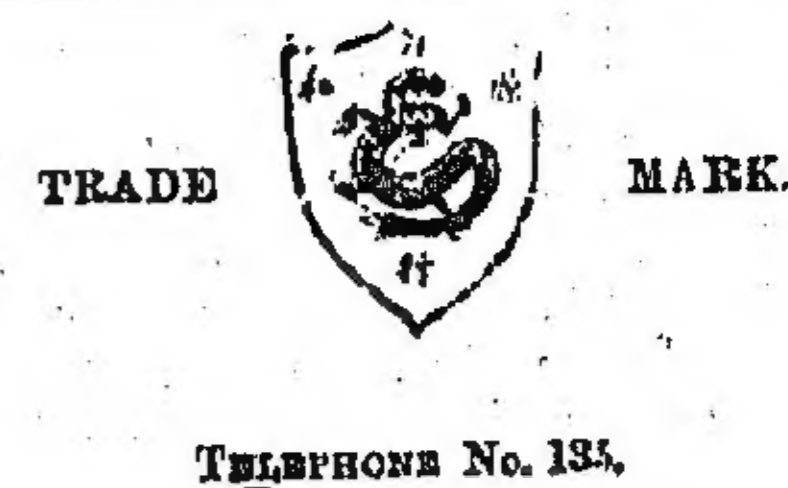
WEATHER REPORT.

The Hongkong Observatory yesterday issued the following report:—

On the 31st at 12.37 p.m. The barometer has fallen generally, particularly over China. A depression coming from the continent, appears to be lying near the mouth of the Yangtze and to be moving Eastwards. Gradients slight in the South and S.E. and S. winds may be expected in the Formosa Channel and N. part of the China Sea.

Forecast:—S.E. winds, light or moderate; overcast, some rain.

Telegraphic communication between the Observatory and Hongkong is interrupted.



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Commander Deining, Amoy
Titanic, cruiser, 2200 tons, 12 guns, Hongkong,
Tsingtau, gunboat, 170 tons, 2 guns, 1300 h.p.,
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Coulinho, Hongkong
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6000 h.p., Capt. Manuel Vasco de Carvalho
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Annapolis, sloop, 1000 tons, 12 guns, 1900

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h.p., Captain Osterhaus, Manila
Dalo, t.-b.-d., 420 tons, 7 guns, 8000 h.p., Lieut.
Decontant, Hongkong
Decontant, gunboat, 60 tons, 7 guns, 8000 h.p.
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Elsaco, gunboat, 665 tons, 10 guns, 6000 h.p.
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Helena, gunboat, 1392 tons, 8 guns, 1088 h.p.
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Monadnock, monitor, 3990 tons, 6 guns, 3000
h.p., Captain Mabon, Shanghai
Monkton, gunboat, 201 tons, 8 guns, 5244 h.p.,
Commander P. E. Sawyer, Hongkong
Oregon, cruiser, 10,283 tons, 45 guns, 11,111
h.p., Captain Bursell, Hongkong
Pampanga, gunboat, 201 tons, 8 guns, 250 h.p.,
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